AMENDMENTS T THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, as follows and consider the subsequent remarks/arguments. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously amended) A stackable plant support comprising:

an upper ring;

a lower ring;

at least one leg attached to the upper ring and lower ring, the leg adapted to support the upper ring and lower ring and engage the ground, the leg comprising a ledge shaped so as to permit application of a downward force by a plant support user to insert a portion of[engage] the plant support into[with] the ground, the ledge defined by a bend in said leg, the ledge located below the position where the lower ring attaches to the leg;

wherein said at least one leg is an elongated U-shaped member comprising a closed end and an open end defined by two portions of the U-shaped member;

the upper ring is attached to said at least one leg proximate the closed end such that a loop is formed above the upper ring by the closed end of the leg;

the ends of the two portions of the U-shaped member are adapted to engage the ground; and

the plant support shaped to enclose plants and support plant containers by inserting a plant container into the interior volume of the wire structure, wherein the plant container is supported above the ground by the wire structure.

2. (Original) The stackable plant support of claim 1 wherein the lower ring has a larger diameter than the upper ring.

3. (Original) The stackable plant support of claim 1 wherein at least one ring is located between the upper ring and lower ring and attached to said at least one leg.

4. (Original) The stackable plant support of claim 1 wherein the plant support is made of wire.

5. (Original) The stackable plant support of claim 1 wherein the plant support is made of plastic.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously amended) The stackable plant support of claim 1 wherein the ledge is defined by a bend in the two portions of the U-shaped member.

8. (Original) The stackable plant support of claim 1 wherein the upper ring and lower ring are shaped so as to permit insertion of a plant container within the plant support, and upper ring adapted to engage a portion of the plant container.

9. (Original) The stackable plant support of claim 4 wherein the at least one leg is attached to the upper ring and lower ring by any one of the group consisting of weld, solder, wrap, and epoxy.

10. (Previously amended) A plant cage apparatus comprising,

at least two arcuate parallel vertically spaced horizontally disposed members, wherein the two arcuate members are an upper ring and a lower ring, the lower ring having a larger diameter than the upper ring, the upper and lower ring shaped so as to facilitate the stacking of a plurality of plant cage apparati, and to accommodate the insertion of a plant container within the plant cage apparatus, the upper ring engaging a portion of the plant container;

at least two legs attached to the circular members wherein each of said legs is formed with an elongate inverted U-shaped member;

a ledge formed on at least one leg of said legs for securement of the plant cage apparatus relative to the associated plant;

at least one loop formed by the connection of one of said legs and one of said arcuate members for removal and transport of the plant cage apparatus; and

wherein the plant cage is adapted to support an associated plant by the insertion of a plant container into the interior volume of the wire structure, wherein the plant container is supported above the ground by the wire structure.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously amended) A method for using a wire structure as both a supporting structure for plants and plant containers comprising:

providing a wire structure centered about a vertical axis, the wire structure having: at least two parallel rings vertically spaced and horizontally disposed connected to at least two U-shaped legs extending downwardly from said rings, the wire structure defining an interior volume; a ledge formed on at least one of said legs for securement of the wire structure; and at least one loop formed by the connection of one of said legs and one of said rings for removal and transport of the wire structure;

wherein the at least two rings include an upper ring and a lower ring, the lower ring having a larger diameter than the upper ring, the upper and lower ring shaped so as to facilitate the stacking of a plurality of wire structures, and to accommodate the insertion of a plant container within the structure, the upper ring engaging a portion of the plant container;

inserting the legs into the ground for using the wire structure as a support for plants, wherein a downward force is applied to the ledge by a wire structure user to insert the legs into the ground without causing damage to leg-to-ring connections of the wire structure; [and]

pulling up on said at least one loop to remove and transport the wire structure when the wire structure is not in use; and

inserting a plant container into the interior volume of the wire structure, wherein the plant container is supported above the ground by the wire structure.

13. (Cancel)

14. (Original) The method according to claim 12 further comprising inserting the legs into the ground for using the wire structure as a support for plants, wherein a downward force is applied to the ledge and said at least one loop by a wire structure user to insert the legs into the ground without causing damage to leg-to-ring connections of the wire structure.

15. (Original) The stackable plant support of claim 4 wherein the wire is made of a galvanized metal.

16. (Original) A plant cage apparatus of claim 10 wherein the arcuate members are circular.

Claims 17-22 (Canceled)

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously amended) A method for using a wire structure as both a supporting structure for plants and plant containers comprising:

providing a wire structure centered about a vertical axis, the wire structure having: at least one ring vertically spaced and horizontally disposed connected to at least one U-shaped leg extending downwardly from said at least one ring, the wire structure defining an interior volume; a ledge formed on said at least one leg for securement of the wire structure; and at least one loop formed by the connection of said at least one leg and at least one ring for removal and transport of the wire structure;

wherein the ledge is defined by a bend in said leg, the ledge located below the position where said at least one ring attaches to the leg;

inserting said at least one leg into the ground for using the wire structure as a support for plants, wherein a downward force is applied to the ledge by a wire structure user to insert the at least one leg into the ground without causing damage to leg-to-ring connections of the wire structure; and

pulling up on said at least one loop to remove and transport the wire structure when the wire structure is not in use.